

MUSIC FOR THE MASSSES



vancouver cantata singers
Paula Kremer, Artistic Director

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Est. 1970

VANCOUVER CANTATA SINGERS

VCS was founded in 1957, and has become one of Canada's preeminent, award-winning choral ensembles. The choir has become known for technical virtuosity, fine blend and exceptionally high performance standards encompassing 500 years of choral repertoire. VCS has been awarded the Canada Council's top prize in choral singing, the Healey Willan Grand Prize, more than any other choir in the country.

Led by Paula Kremer since 2013, VCS also commissions new works from critically acclaimed composers which have led to extremely successful and innovative collaborations with regional and international artists and ensembles.

For more information about our organization, visit vancouvercantatasingers.com



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A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The Board of Directors of the Vancouver Cantata Singers wishes to share that, following this season, Artistic Director Paula Kremer will transition into the role of Conductor Emerita. The honorary title of Conductor Emerita recognizes Paula's lasting artistic legacy and affirms her continuing place within the artistic life of the choir.

"With profound respect and appreciation for the Vancouver Cantata Singers, I have decided to step down as Artistic Director at the end of our 2026/27 season," says Paula. "My journey with this wonderful organization began in 1994, singing alto under the direction of James Fankhauser. I was thrilled to be named Artistic Director in 2013, and have done my best to lead the choir in many seasons of concerts, continuing the ensemble's tradition of innovative artistic excellence. This excellence runs through the entire organization: our President and Board of Directors, our General Manager, our singers, and our loyal and supportive audiences.

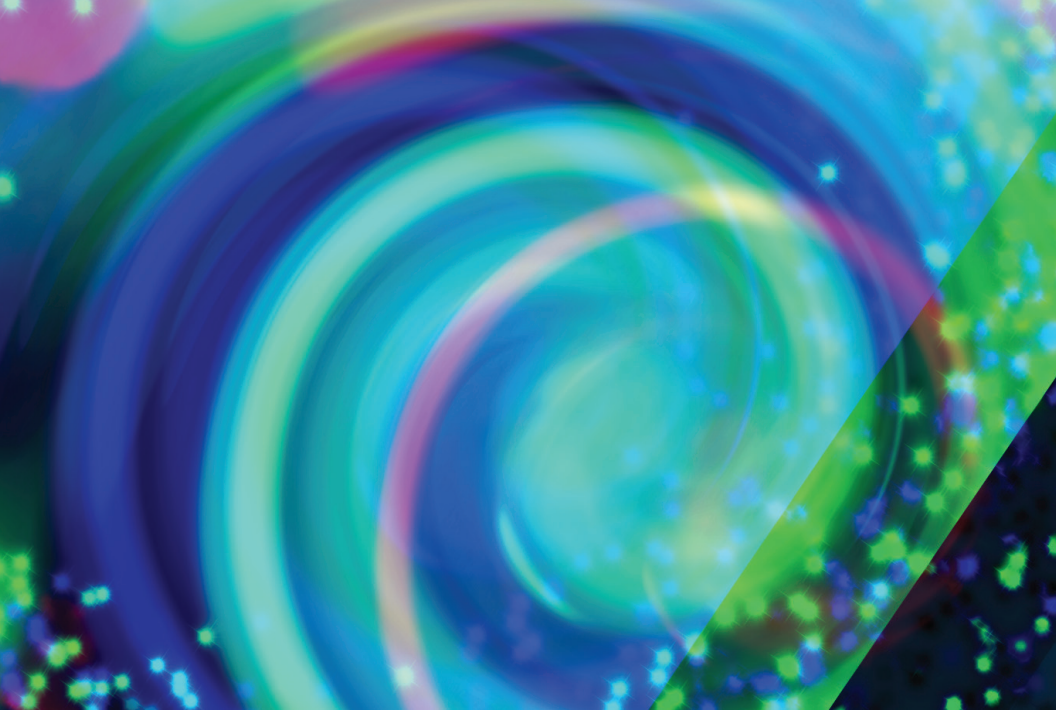
"A choir is a special instrument, the sum of its parts, and the Vancouver Cantata Singers attracts some of the finest singers in the Lower Mainland. I am incredibly appreciative of all of the members of the choir and all the guest artists that have joined us in collaboration; it has truly been a privilege to rehearse and perform with such excellent musicians. This experience will remain dear to my heart as I cherish the last thirteen years of programming and leading VCS. I will be forever grateful to VCS for the years of music making in my life, and look forward to many more years of the choir's success as I transition to Conductor Emerita."

The Board expresses its deep gratitude for everything Paula has given to VCS for the past 32 years. Paula brought to our rehearsals an exceptional ability to identify and resolve vocal challenges, along with a rare gift for illuminating how music theory and formal analysis shape expressive interpretation. In 2019, under Paula's leadership, VCS achieved the remarkable distinction of winning the Canada Council for the Arts' Healey Willan Prize for an unprecedented fourth time. Her years of dedication make her the second longest-serving Artistic Director in the choir's 68-year history.

Paula will continue in her current position through the end of the 2026/27 season and lead the choir's Fall 2026 performances. VCS welcomes guest conductors Hyejung Jun and Tzu-Han Ann Chen to the podium in February and May of 2027. Jun and Chen close the season as finalists in the search for a new Artistic Director. A new Artistic Director will assume the role beginning with the 2027/28 season, and Paula will occasionally return to the podium in her new capacity.

Please join us in thanking Paula for her artistry, leadership, and devotion to the Vancouver Cantata Singers. We look forward to honouring her legacy over the coming seasons and continuing our musical journey together.





BEATITUDE

Saturday October 24th, 2026

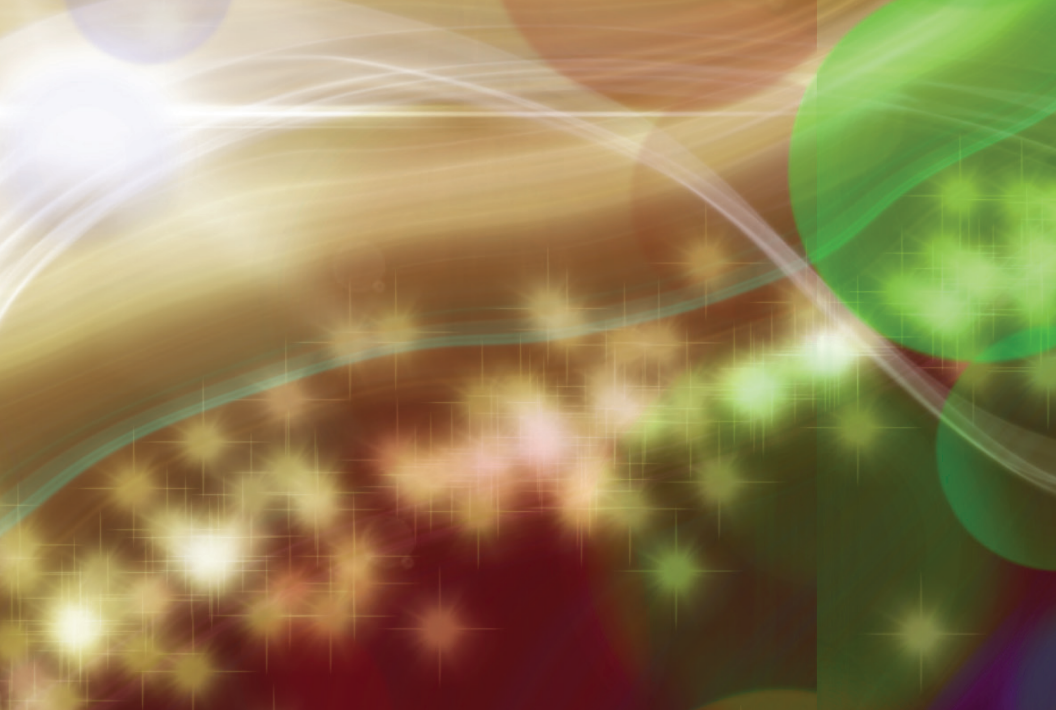
Christ Church Cathedral, 7:30 pm

Supreme blessedness, extreme happiness, a state of holy joy. **Beatitude** could also be described as a personal feeling of great bliss, calm contentment, and simply, a blessed state of being.

When I look upon the past thirteen years as Artistic Director of the Vancouver Cantata Singers, I feel incredibly blessed to have led this wonderful choir. Their singing has enriched my soul and their spirit is at the core of their music making – sharing magnificent works with our audiences, filling space with grace, intention, sound, and love for what they are creating. For this beatitude, I am filled with gratitude.

Come and join us for BEATITUDE, the first concert of our 26/27 season MUSIC FOR THE MASSES. This will be a special evening of chosen movements from our favourite mass settings, interspersed with works that reflect, comment, and illuminate the journey of the Kyrie to the Agnus Dei – a cry for mercy to eternal peace. The program will include music by Palestrina, Byrd, Rautavaara, Rheinberger, Martin, Carrillo, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, and feature *Slava* by Lesya Dychko, *The Beatitudes* by Paul Mealor, and the premiere of a new composition by Sherryl Sewepagaham, written for the Vancouver Cantata Singers.

We hope to see you there,
Paula



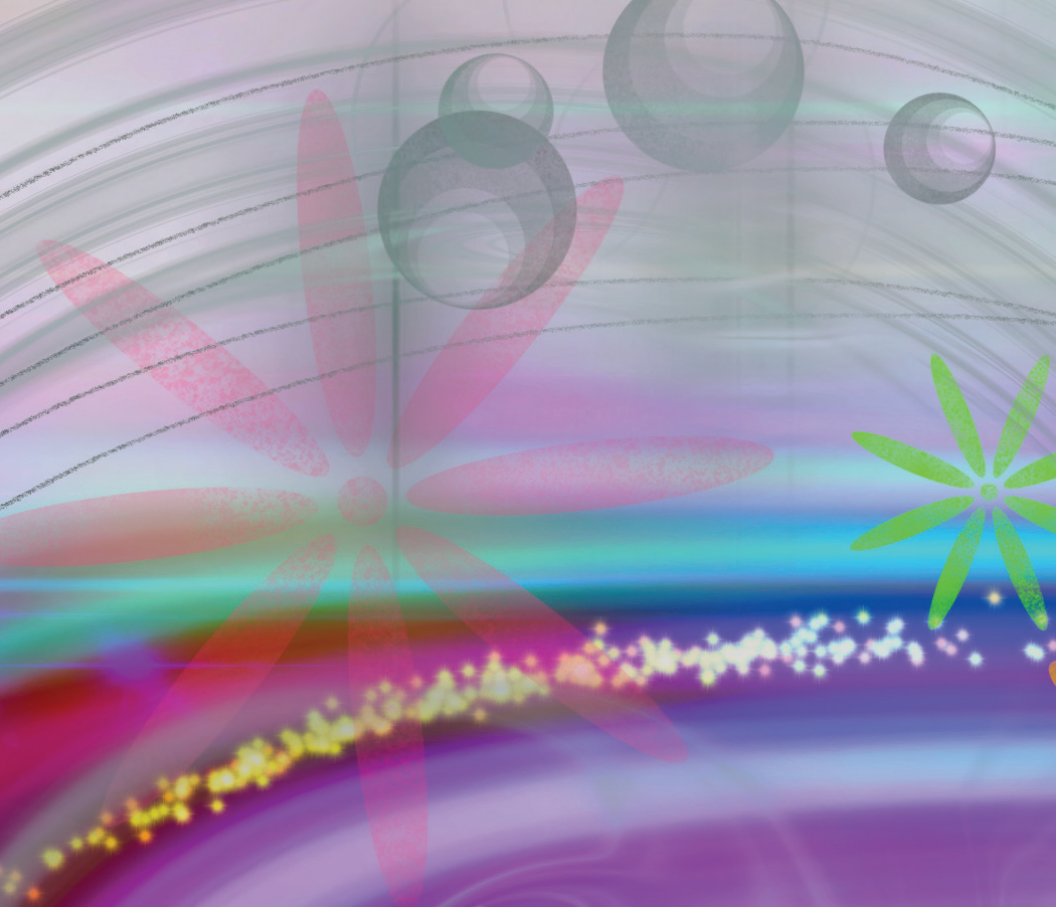
CHRISTMAS REPRISE XXIII

Saturday December 19, 2026

2:00 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral

7:30 pm at Sanctuary on 6th/Becoming Church in
New Westminster

We are thrilled to present our 23rd Christmas Reprise! Join the Vancouver Cantata Singers in this popular concert of traditional carols and contemporary Christmas compositions filling the resonant spaces of Holy Rosary Cathedral and Sanctuary on 6th/Becoming Church in New Westminster. In the bustle of the holiday season, let the beauty of a cappella singing calm your spirit and transport your soul as the choir sings Miles Ramsay's *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*, Ramona Luengen's *There is no Rose*, and many more Christmas treasures including works by Eric Whitacre, Sophia Colpitts, and Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria*.



SERENITY AND JOY

Saturday February 20, 2027

Pacific Spirit United Church, 7:30 pm

Guest Conductor: **Hyejung Jun**



The Vancouver Cantata Singers present a diverse choral journey exploring sacred devotion and lively folk traditions. The performance opens with Hyowon Woo's vibrant "Alleluia" and William H. Harris's lush double-choir masterpiece. At the centre of the concert is Francis Poulenc's profound "Mass in G Major," serving as a centrepiece of deep beauty and faith. The program then shifts into moving, reflective modern choral works before concluding with a vibrant selection of international folk arrangements. This final set celebrates global heritage, featuring festive Norwegian rhythms, lyrical love songs, and energetic Filipino folk melodies.

ACROSS THE BALTIC SEA: CHORAL MUSIC OF NORDIC-BALTIC COUNTRIES

Saturday May 8, 2027

Pacific Spirit United Church, 7:30 pm

Guest Conductor: **Tzu-Han Ann Chen**

Across the Baltic Sea explores the rich choral traditions of Northern Europe, featuring composers from Finland, Norway, Iceland, Estonia, and Lithuania. The program traces a musical journey across cultures and landscapes, from the romantic voice of Sibelius and the modernism of Rautavaara to the contemplative worlds of Arvo Pärt and Vytautas Miškinis. United by a profound connection to history, spirituality, and landscapes, these works reveal the remarkable musical tapestry woven across the Baltic and Nordic regions.





SUBSCRIPTION BENEFITS

SAVINGS

Purchase a four-concert series for 20% off single ticket prices, a three-concert series for 15% off single ticket prices. or a two-concert series for 10% off single ticket prices.

FLEXIBILITY

If you're unable to make a concert, ask about a tax receipt.

CHRISTMAS REPRISE SPECIAL ACCESS

Special invitations and seating priority at Christmas Reprise. As a subscriber to any of our series, receive invitations to our special events and receptions and receive priority seating at Christmas Reprise.

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST AND DONATE ONLINE AT
VANCOUVERCANTATASINGERS.COM

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, INDIVIDUAL DONORS, AND SUPPORTERS!



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VANCOUVER

23rd annual DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 7 2026

As part of the "Heart of the City Festival," Vancouver Cantata Singers will be hosting an open rehearsal on November 4th!

YOUR DONATION

The Vancouver Cantata Singers is a not-for-profit charitable organization and depends on ticket sales, annual contributions from individuals and corporations and government grants for financial support.

Your donation helps us:

- Sustain the VCS commitment to artistic excellence
- Expand artistic programming
- Maintain and broaden educational outreach programs
- Support local artists, composers and publishers
- Develop young talent
- Support Vancouver's vibrant music scene
- Create exceptional choral performances that are accessible to all.

Visit <https://vancouvercantatasingers.com/support-us/> to make a donation today!



THE VANCOUVER SINGERS ENDOWMENT FUND

As a not-for-profit charitable organization, the Vancouver Cantata Singers depends on the generosity of individuals and corporations, ticket sales, and government grants to sustain its work.

Held in trust by the Vancouver Foundation, the Vancouver Cantata Singers Endowment Fund was established in 2018 to ensure long-term sustainability and provide meaningful support for local artists. The fund was created through an initial gift made in memory of Ti-La Kremer, and continues to grow as a lasting legacy for our community.

The Vancouver Cantata Singers created this fund to ensure steady income in supporting the long-term goals of the organization and are seeking to grow the fund to ensure we can indefinitely support our local artists.

We thank the Government of Canada and the Canada Cultural Investment Fund for matching donations made to the endowment fund. Any donations made prior to December 1 are eligible to be matched in Spring 2026. Help us make your support go further!

Visit <https://give.vancouverfoundation.ca/s/vcs> to make a donation today!

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